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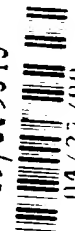
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**Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

New U.S. Patent Application
Title: ION GENERATION METHOD AND
FILAMENT FOR ION GENERATION APPARATUS
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Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above patent application.

1. A check for \$690.00 represents the filing fee.
2. Application - 41 pages, including 2 independent claims and 20 claims total.
3. Drawings - 5 sheets of formal drawings containing 12 figures.

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This application is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f). Applicants await notification from the Patent and Trademark Office of the time set for filing the Declaration.

Applicants claim the right to priority based on Japanese Patent Application Nos. 11-121692, filed April 28, 1999 and 11-269854, filed on September 24, 1999.

Please accord this application a serial number and filing date.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees due and any other fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 during the pendency of this application to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: 

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RVB/FPD/sci
Enclosures